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**Reaction to radiocontrast media**

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**Q.** Is a patient with a history of adverse pseudoallergic reaction to intravenous contrast dye injection (immediate type: urticaria), at risk of a similar reaction or a delayed "allergic" reaction after intracapsular injection of radiocontrast material (shoulder joint injection for diagnostic purposes)? If so, would you recommend pretreatment using the same protocol as with intravenous RCM "allergy" prevention?

**A.** Thank you for your recent inquiry.

Anaphylactic reactions to radiocontrast media can occur when these agents are administered via nonvascular routes. For example, reactions have occurred during histosalphingograms, myelograms, and via other routes of administration (1, 2). Thus, a patient receiving intracapsular injection would also be at risk and should be treated using the same protocol recommended for pretreatment of a patient receiving radiocontrast via the intravenous route.

Thank you again for your inquiry and we hope this response is helpful to you.

References:

1. Lieberman P and Siegle RL. Reactions to Radiocontrast Material. Anaphylactoid Events in Radiology. Humana Press, Inc. publishers, Clinical Reviews in Allergy and Immunology 1999; 17(4):469-496.

2. Lieberman P, Siegle RL, and Treadwell G. Radiocontrast Reactions. In: Clinical Reviews in Allergy. 4(2):229-245, 1986.

Sincerely,  
Phil Lieberman, M.D.

Key Words: radiocontrast media, anaphylactic reaction, drug reaction

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